



Legislative Bulletin.....December 15, 2005

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Summary of the Bills Under Consideration Today:

Total Number of New Government Programs: 0

Total Cost of Discretionary Authorizations: \$0

Effect on Revenue: \$0

Total Change in Mandatory Spending: \$0

Total New State & Local Government Mandates: 0

Total New Private Sector Mandates: 0

Number of Bills Without Committee Reports: 0

Number of Reported Bills that Don't Cite Specific Clauses of Constitutional Authority: 0

H.Con.Res. 315—Urging the President to issue a proclamation for the observance of an American Jewish History Month (*Wasserman Schultz, D-FL*)

Order of Business: The resolution was considered on the House floor on Wednesday, December 14th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. A recorded vote requested on the resolution was rolled to today, December 15th.

Summary: H.Con.Res. 315 would resolve that, “Congress urges the President to issue each year a proclamation calling on state and local governments and the people of the United States to observe an American Jewish History Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.”

Additional Background: Many Jewish groups are asking for a permanent designation of January as American Jewish History Month.

Committee Action: The resolution was not referred to any committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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H.Res. 598—Condemning actions by the Government of Syria that have hindered the investigation of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri conducted by the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC) (Issa, R-CA)

Order of Business: The resolution was considered on the House floor on Wednesday, December 14th, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill. A recorded vote requested on the resolution was rolled to today, December 15th.

Summary: H.Res. 598 would resolve that the House:

- “condemns the Government of Syria for hindering and failing to fully cooperate in a timely and substantive manner with the investigation of the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri conducted by the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission (UNIIC);
- “expresses support for extending the investigative mandate of the UNIIC for a minimum additional six-month period as recommended by the UNIIC in order to fully ascertain the responsibility for the assassination of former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri;
- “states its concern that insecurity in Lebanon could have a destabilizing effect on the region and harm the ability of the people of Lebanon to strengthen democracy and economic prosperity in their country;

- “expresses its gratitude to—
 - chief investigator Detlev Mehlis and the UNIIC for their continuing efforts to uncover evidence related to the assassination of Rafik Hariri; and
 - those who have freely assisted the UNIIC in its investigation;
- “demands that Syria commit itself to expeditiously fulfill all obligations to cooperate with the UNIIC and to meet all obligations of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1559, 1595, and 1636;
- “encourages the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States in the United Nations Security Council to advocate for the application of punitive measures against Syria that target its leadership—including the enactment of punitive sanctions against Syria under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations—if Syria further fails to completely cooperate with the ongoing UNIIC investigation and continues to violate Security Council Resolutions 1559, 1595, and 1636; and
- “urges the Government of the United States to support the extension of the jurisdiction of the UNIIC to cover all assassination attempts in Lebanon since February 14, 2005.”

Additional Background: On February 14, 2005, former Prime Minister of Lebanon Rafik Hariri and 22 others were killed in a terrorist bombing. On April 7, 2005, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1595, under which the Security Council decided to “establish an international independent investigation Commission [the UNIIC] based in Lebanon to assist the Lebanese authorities in their investigation of all aspects of this terrorist act, including to help identify its perpetrators, sponsors, organizers and accomplices.” It is widely believed that the Syrian Government was involved in the killings.

For more information on UN Security Council resolutions, visit this website:

<http://www.un.org/documents/scres.htm>

Committee Action: The resolution was not referred to any committee.

Cost to Taxpayers: The resolution would authorize no expenditure.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

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